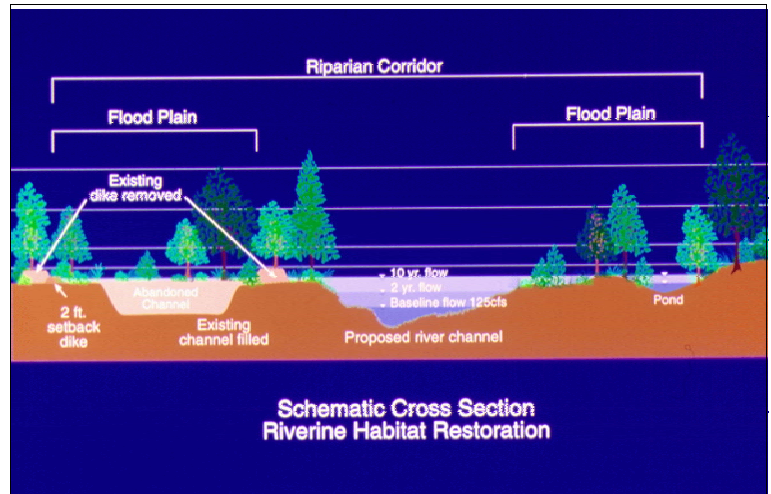


# Provo River Restoration Project

## Project Description

The Provo River Restoration Project (PRRP) will restore the diversity and productivity of fish and wildlife habitat along the middle Provo River between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir. The project involves (refer to the diagram to the right):

- **removing most existing dikes to re-establish the river's access to its floodplain**
- **restoring the straightened river channel into a meandering channel mimicking the historic conditions**
- **restoring fish habitat**
- **protecting an 800 to 2,200-foot-wide corridor for angler access and wildlife habitat**
- **restoring wetlands and riparian woodlands to increase the amount, diversity and quality of wildlife habitats.**



## Project Location

The project area is located between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir on 10 miles of the middle Provo River in Wasatch County, Utah.

## Project Purpose

The project's purpose is to partially make up for losses to the general public of fish and wildlife resources caused by construction and operation of the Central Utah Project and other federal reclamation projects in Utah.

## Project Results

The project will result in meeting past mitigation obligations in addition to achieving ecosystem restoration by building diversity instream as well as in the riparian forest surrounding the middle Provo River. Expected outcomes include:

- ▶ **Five-fold increase in the trout population**
- ▶ **Doubling the riparian bird population**
- ▶ **Diverse revegetation**
- ▶ **Adding approximately two miles of main Provo River channel**
- ▶ **Adding up to nine miles of small side-channel habitats and wetlands.**

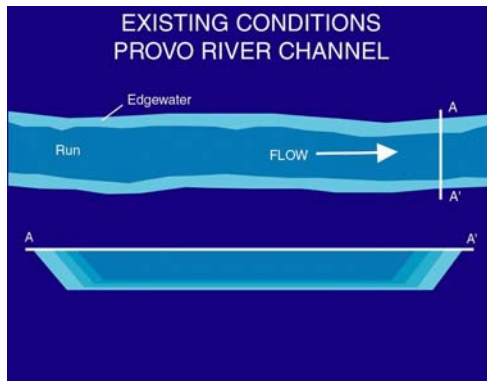
## Schedule

- ▶ Final Project Design: 1998-2002
- ▶ Land Acquisition: 1998-2002
- ▶ Pilot Project: Spring-Fall 1999
- ▶ Develop Corridor Management Plan with Wasatch County and Wildlife Agencies: 1998-2001
- ▶ Target Construction Complete: 2005
- ▶ Monitoring and Maintenance: Ongoing

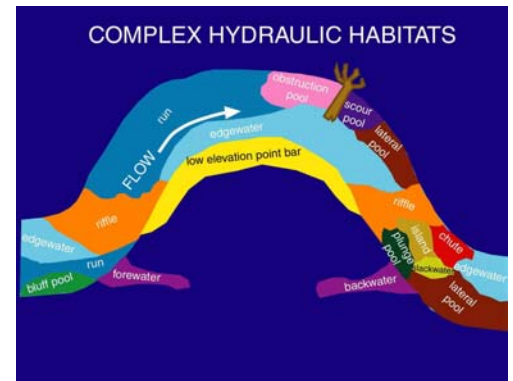
## Funding

The estimated project cost is \$30 million: \$20 million for land acquisition and \$10 million for construction. This amount represents only about 1½% of the cost of building the Central Utah Project. The Central Utah Project Completion Act provides full authority for the project. Congress has authorized its total cost, but actual funds will be provided through annual appropriations.

*Current River Conditions:*



*PRRP Results:*



## Land Acquisition

The Provo River Restoration Project requires acquisition of some private property. The construction of Jordanelle Reservoir requires the federal government to acquire 135 acres of private property to establish a public access corridor along the river. An additional 491 acres of private property must be acquired to meet similar habitat restoration obligations and achieve PRRP's ecosystem restoration goal. Additional acres for further restoration will be acquired only on a willing-seller basis.

## Prior Mitigation Obligations

The Provo River Restoration Project combines meeting "baseline" requirements with ecosystem restoration. Baseline requirements come from prior commitments associated with federal reclamation projects. Baseline mitigation activities must take place whether through PRRP or other projects. Examples of such obligations include:

1. Jordanelle Reservoir inundated four miles of Provo River and associated wetlands. To offset such impacts, providing angler access, acquiring and restoring riparian woodlands and providing 125 cfs minimum flows year-round below Jordanelle were conditions for its construction, which now must be met.
2. Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System dewatered miles of streams on the south slope of the Uintas and significantly reduced trout populations. As a result, the federal government was required to restore fish habitat and provide angler access elsewhere.

3. Provo River Project resulted in the damming, channelizing, straightening and diking of the middle Provo River and loss of prime fish and wildlife habitat in the 1950's and 60's.

## Project Background

PRRP has been planned among government agencies, outdoor groups, biologists, local officials and the general public over the last ten years. A draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in 1996 for which two public meetings were held in Salt Lake City and Heber City. Comments were responded to in a Final Environmental Impact Statement and a Record of Decision that was approved on February 23, 1998. The following are important points identified in these documents:

- ▶ PRRP is not a "parkway" project providing developed, intensive public uses. On the contrary, PRRP will provide limited and controlled public access; public uses must be compatible with the project's ecosystem restoration goals.
- ▶ PRRP does provide the best location for completing fish habitat restoration obligations as well as for ecosystem restoration in large part because of the 125 cfs minimum flows required below Jordanelle Dam.
- ▶ PRRP will not increase the likelihood of flooding on adjacent private property. Property owners will receive the same amount of flood protection under the Provo River Restoration Project as is currently provided by Jordanelle Dam upstream.

## Pilot Project

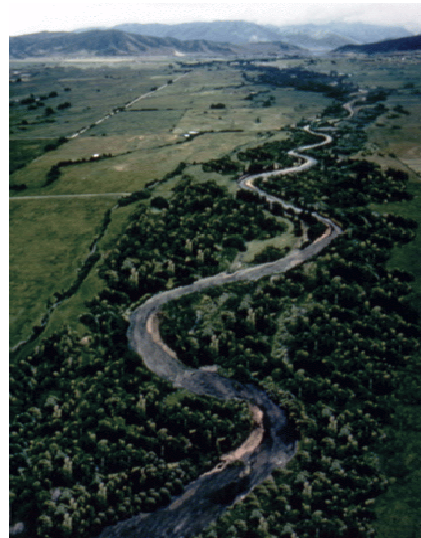
The first phase of the Provo River Restoration Project began approximately 1.6 miles downstream of Jordanelle Dam. The pilot project area covers approximately 1.45 miles. The lower end is about .9 miles south and west of Highway 40. The pilot project was initiated April 1, 1999 and was completed in December, 1999. It included creating new meanders and side channels in the main Provo River between the Cottonwood Canyon bridge and Highway 40; improving the parking lot and public access on the Cottonwood Canyon access road; constructing several wetland ponds for spotted frog habitat; and removing and reconstructing wetland dikes to create a broader floodplain for the Provo River.

The purposes of the Pilot Project were to:

- ▶ Test the channel design
- ▶ Demonstrate our methods and project
- ▶ Create additional habitat for spotted frogs prior to construction disturbances
- ▶ Train construction workers in ecosystem restoration techniques
- ▶ Troubleshoot construction difficulties

Lessons learned from the pilot project are being incorporated into subsequent phases of the PRRP to ensure its ultimate success. Coordination with other agencies, local officials, residents and the general public will continue throughout the duration of the project.

*The middle Provo River before restoration....*



*...and our vision of the middle Provo River "after"*

### About the Commission...

The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission was established in 1994 under the Central Utah Project Completion Act to conserve, mitigate and enhance fish, wildlife and recreation resources affected by the development and operation of federal reclamation projects, particularly the Central Utah Project, in the State of Utah. This five-member, presidentially appointed Commission develops projects using an ecosystem approach, based on scientific knowledge, involves the public, and employs partnerships with state, federal and local governments, as well as non-profit groups and Indian tribes to complete mitigation requirements.

For more information about the Provo River Restoration Project or any of the mitigation projects in the Commission's Mitigation and Conservation Plan, please contact Diane Simmons at **801-524-3146**, or send inquiries to:

Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission  
102 West 500 South #315  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101